

THE TROUBLEMAKER

EXISTING
GOVERNMENT-
LESS SOCIETIES

* NOAM CHOMSKY

* ATF

* PIGTALK

* Vegetarianism

* U.S. OUT OF
SOMALIA

PLUS
MORE



ACTIVE TRANSFORMATION





existing governmentless societies

It is a little known and often buried fact that, for most of human history (around 99%!), people lived without government. Not only do most people not realize this, but very many just don't want to accept it and wish to keep others from doing so. Countless school kids are still taught that humanity has "progressed" from a state of violently competitive "savagery" to "a condition of nation societies in which 'peace' (!) is the blessed condition of the human (sic) race. It is needless to point out how convenient such a conception is to the philosophy of capitalism and also of gradualist reformers".² As anthropologist Harold Barclay points out, "over the past several generations, anthropologists, through their ethnographic research, have documented innumerable stateless and governmentless societies throughout the world and throughout time".³ My purpose in writing this is twofold-- I want to make it clear that, no, government and coercive ways of living are not just some unavoidable expression of "natural law"-- humans create these ways of living-- and, secondly, to offer a useful model of a less coercive society from which we can learn-- not a blueprint or program to copy, but a social organization from which we can learn. One such society in Borneo, called the Land Dayaks by Western anthropologists (I don't know their name for themselves) serve as an example of this sort of social group. In this article I will briefly discuss what I've learned about the Dayak way of living for the purposes above.

Maybe the best place to start is by describing a bit of the physical aspect of Dayak living. The Dayaks live in the dense forests of Borneo in small village groups. According to Barclay, "each village is an autonomous and independent entity".⁴ Each village is made up of a few large structures called longhouses. The longhouses are (you guessed it!) long buildings which are built on stilts and house several family groups. Each family group has its own "private" (maybe "personal" is a better word) section of the dwelling but a common verandah is shared--each family is "responsible" for the section of verandah in front of their section of the longhouse. This set up reflects some of what seem to be the social values of the Dayaks in that it allows for a balance between the group and individual. W.R. Geddes, who did extensive fieldwork among the Dayaks, states that they "have solved a great human (sic) problem-- how to be independent yet never be isolated... In the longhouse it is possible to be an individualist and yet lead a cosy life of company. If one is shamed or angry, one can sulk and yet never be forgotten".⁵

The social organization of the Dayaks within this physical environment offers a helpful lesson and a sharp contrast to that of mainstream Western



MINNESOTA EIGHT

On September 25, 1992, someone walked into a pizza joint and shot a 30-year old veteran cop in the back. Steve Banks, Shannon Bowles, Larry Flournoy, A.C. Ford, Mwati McKenzie, Lee Rockmore, Montary Willis, and an unnamed 15 yr. old are being held in connection with the shooting of the officer. Bail is set at three million dollars. They are being denied counsel of their choice.

Though the 911 report is sketchy, the railroading of the justice[sic] system was clear - eight men are being held for what two men supposedly did. The cops called the cop killing "retribution" for the arrest of a blind Afrikan-American male the previous afternoon, fueled by an angry and fruitless meeting on police brutality that evening.

- 1) no gun was ever recovered.
- 2) no one witness could pick out any of the defendants in the line-ups.

Despite the lack of evidence, A.C. Ford was convicted on May 28 for conspiring in the killing. The next defendant on trial will be Shannon Bowles. Jury selection began on June 14, 1993.

There is some speculation that the cop was killed by his own kind to provide a martyr for the police and an excuse for a crackdown on Afrikan-Americans. After the shooting several black men were shot, and a twin-cities radio commentator claims to have reliable sources that charge the retaliatory shootings were set-up by white power death squads with ties to the cops. Since the incident,

police have cut support for the anti-violence program whose leaders included gang members and have harassed activists.

In Minnesota, Afrikan-Americans comprise 5% of the state population and 50% of the prison population, far in excess of national averages. Your help is needed! Contact: The Committee Seeking Justice for the Minnesota Eight, PO BOX 40355, St. Paul, MN 55104; (612) 339-4796.

COPS SHOOT COOLEY

HIGH PROTESTERS

Back in March cops shot protesters outside of Cooley High (Detroit). The protesters, one of whom was seriously wounded, were protesting, what else, police brutality. The cops had shot and killed a teenager outside the school the morning before. The cops later went to a middle school to give a lecture on crime and gangs. The students didn't care much for that, so they voiced their opinions vociferously and tried to leave. The cops responded by arresting 34 of the students. (Wind Chill Factor #9)

DON'T FORGET

Don't forget Clinton is calling for 20% more cops. That's 100,000 more.

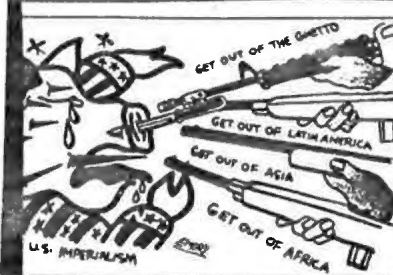
According to the Gay/Lesbian Anti-violence project, 1 out of every 7 hate crimes in New York City against gays are committed by New York Police Department officers. (Ship of Fools #3).

FRAME-UP EXPOSED IN EARTH FIRST BOMBING

Three years ago, a bomb exploded in Earth First activist, Judi Bari's car, nearly killing her and Darryl Cherney. Within minutes of the explosion, the FBI and OPD arrested Bari and Cherney for the bombing on a claim that the bomb had been located in the back seat of the car, meaning it was visible to them, thus their bomb. After 8 weeks, the police and FBI admitted there was no evidence on which to prosecute and dropped the charges. Bari and Cherney have filed a lawsuit against the OPD and FBI charging false arrest and other civil rights violations.

As a result of the lawsuit, revealed photos and police reports show conclusive evidence that prove the FBI and OPD were lying and deliberately framed the pair.

Police photos show quite clearly that the epicenter of the explosion was under the front seat, while the back seat remained undamaged. However, to this day there has been no serious investigation of the bombing despite death threats Bari has received. The bombing took place during Earth First! was mobilizing for Redwood Summer, a series of actions aimed at saving old-growth redwood forests from clearcutting by big timber companies. The timber industry and an anti-environmental group called the Wise Use Movement created an atmosphere of terror by distributing false documents about Earth First! and Bari and Cherney, and encouraging violence against them. (this, as well as the Minnesota 8, is from Wind Chill Factor #9).



Keepin' an eye on the pigs who are forever keepin' an eye on us.

CHECK THIS OUT

Book Review
Noam Chomsky's The Culture of Terrorism

Wow! Aaaaaaagh! This book makes me want to curl up and cry. A lot of dark designs of the government are revealed under the cover of this book.

This book is about United States foreign policy during the early eighties to about nineteen eighty-eight. It talks about the Iran-contra scandal and the war in Nicaragua and how the mainstream press manipulates public opinion. He goes through the American media, foreign media and diplomatic record and totally blasts the US for the terrorist culture it is.

The US media by conveniently forgetting about certain (most) facts are able to get the public mind (or at least its leaders) behind government policy. The book talks about how the US government sabotages any meaningful human rights in the Latin America while the US media looks the other way. Chomsky looks through the media and finds only praise for the US government policy of slaughtering 150,000 people (most civilians) in Nicaragua and its continued support of fascism in the Third World.

The whole premise of the US policy is to establish control in the Third World under the guise of "democracy" and which really means opening their countries to US corporations and the subsequent economic rape that ensues.

I also especially liked it when he says the US political system is a one party system. It just has two sides who agree on fundamentals but disagree on tactics.

Chomsky also hints at how our own government fucks with us at home. He uses the fact that the CIA smuggles drugs in the country such as when a drug ring that was busted in the Bay area of San Francisco had its confiscated money returned at the request of the US District Attorney because it was realized that the money was going to the contras (p187).

He also talks about the Office of Public Diplomacy, a Reagan Administration office used to influence public and Congressional opinion in favor of the contras. The book had this to say about it:

"These measures to control the public mind", in the terminology of the Public Relations Industry, were quite successful in setting the agenda for discussion and fixing its narrow bounds. A senior US official "familiar with the effort" describes the enterprise as "a huge psychological operation of the kind the military conducts to influence a population in denied or enemy territory." The terms are well chosen to express the perception of the public and Congress within contemporary "conservatism": enemy territory.

This has all these things and more to say and more. This book has seriously destroyed what little faith I still had in the government. I would highly recommend this book.

--Aram Jacob's Tulu



culture. According to Geddes, the Dayaks "are anarchists to the extent that no one amongst them is strong enough to force the others to do anything which they do not wish to do. In their classless society there are no true chiefs". When decisions which affect the group are to be made, they are made by consensus⁷— if a person is affected by a decision, they have a say in that decision and when a consensus is not reached, the issue is left unresolved until the members of the group decide to resolve the issue. This respect for the individual seems to carry over into all areas of Dayak life. When Dayak people work together, for example, "they do so from mutual interest and not because they are bound to a system or to rulers"⁸ and if, when a task is to be done, but an individual has something they would rather do, they simply don't show up and "no one could make them do so if their minds be set against it, for the truth of the matter is that the Land Dayaks are anarchist" of a sort—they "certainly do not live in one of those societies, existing in the minds of theorists, in which individuality is sunk into the affairs of the tribe (sic)"¹⁰. The work still seems to get done but not at the expense of anyone's happiness or freedom. Relative to mainstream Western culture, there seems to be an amazingly small degree of social division among the Dayaks. Children enjoy the same freedom as the adults⁹ and seem to have equal power in decision making— if a task is delegated to the children, they can meet and decide not to do it!¹² There also seems to be a great deal less sexual inequality among the Dayaks than among folks in so-called "developed" countries—Geddes goes as far as to state that "sons and daughters are equal"¹³. It does seem, however, that women do the majority of the work and this, to me, illustrates that, at least on some level, there is an imbalance of power.

There are other factors in the generally very free and equal Dayak society which jeopardize this freedom and equality. For example, while there are no "true chiefs", there is a person in each village who, by consensus, is designated as "headman". This person has no "authority" over anyone or extra power with which to impose his will, but, it seems to me, this position created the potential for a concentration of power in a village because of this person's position of being more "in the public eye". This does not seem to happen, however, at least according to the sources I've read. Also, public opinion seems to be a regulating factor in the communities¹⁴ which, if it somehow becomes a coercive force, would inhibit individual freedom. These factors, however, are not insurmountable obstacles for people interested in creating a truly free society. A major obstacle that many of these small scale societies do face is the brutal repression they face at the hands of the governments of their respective lands. As I stated earlier, my intention in writing about these people was not to offer a rigid program or blueprint to follow, but a model from which we can learn a great deal. And to those who say that there have always been and will always be governments, all I can say is, well, you're wrong.

notes:

SQUIRREL

1. Barclay, Harold. People Without Government. Kahn and Averill, London. 1990. p.39.
2. John Hewston in Kropotkin, Peter. Mutual Aid. Freedom Press, London. 1987. p.1.
3. Barclay, 11.
4. Barclay, 79.
5. Geddes, W.R. Nine Dayak Nights. Oxford University Press, 1957. p.32.
6. Geddes, 21.
7. Barclay, 78.
8. Geddes, 22.
9. Geddes, 21.
10. Geddes, 20.
11. Geddes, 37.
12. Geddes, 24.
13. Geddes, 39.
14. Geddes, 23.

RESIST US IMPERIALISM IN SOMALIA

This is a speech that I read at the US out of Somalia Demonstration October 15, 1993.

Why am I here? I won't speak for anyone else but myself.

The United States Military Industrial Complex continues to exert it's military muscle, not only on it's own citizens, but across the globe.

Examples? You know em: Vietnam, Cambodia, Indochina... The list goes on. What about Central America where Reaganite policies killed 150,000 people Pol Pot style ie, torture, rape, etc. For the most part, Contras killed common citizens, what they called "soft targets", because the US government knew if the people were kept miserable they would resist the Sandinistas, because that would be the only way for US led contra terror to minimize. Therefore the US could have it's puppet dictator, like it had in Guatemala, El Salvador, etc. Therefore US business would prosper, cheap labor, etc.

But we're here about Somalia. But what about the Oil war, cops, I mean Desert Storm. Another 150,000 killed, many citizens, many buried alive in trenches. All killed in the name of "democracy", yeah right. All killed in the name of dollars/oil. The Oil war, where the US government aligned itself with Saudi Arabia, a country where women still are not allowed to drive and slavery was abolished less than 50 years ago.

Oh, but we're here for Somalia, where the US led UN send "peacekeepers" on a "humanitarian" mission to feed the "starving". "Peacekeepers" that opened fire on unarmed civilian demonstrators back in June, killing more than twenty women and children. "Peacekeepers" whose "precision" missile attacks have struck hospitals and humanitarian compounds. "Peacekeepers" who fly low in their helicopters blowing down housing and firing missiles into residential areas.

What about the starvation? For the most of Somalia there is no chaos as we were led to believe by US media lies.

Most of Somalia is governed peacefully by regional councils. The starvation was slowly receding to usual levels, the levels the US constantly ignores, before the US/UN troops invaded. Remember this is an invasion. US/UN troops were not invited to Somalia, in fact Somalis were themselves specifically not invited to participate in any talks concerning armed intervention.

Before the troops invaded food relief supply lines were only losing five to ten percent, certainly no greater than anywhere else in the third world. But now since the "Peacekeepers" have arrived the starvation is increasing again. The US/UN invasion is hampering the relief efforts.

James Fennell of CARE said, "We cannot get to people like we used to and they are dying."

Tibebu Haile Selassie, deputy director of UNICEF in Mogadishu said, "the situation is worse than before."

Hunger would not exist there in the first place if not for capitals intervention, by means of the US led IMF and World Bank over the last decade.

SHAGGY

Then what is this so-called "humanitarian" mission? Look at the historical record, can you believe the US would get into any situation for humanitarian reasons at all, let alone for humanitarian reasons only.

Once we see through the government lies, fed to us through the ever cooperative US media, we begin to see why the US is in Somalia.

We see the oil wars continue. Two-thirds of Somalia was allocated to oil companies before the current crisis. With parts of Somalia in chaos the oil companies had to leave. The US is using Conoco's Mogadishu compound as an embassy. The landlord of that compound is Osman Atto, a business man who happens to be the main financial backer of General Aidid, the latest to be demonized by the US press, the person who the US has been trying to capture, because he stands in the way of Somalia becoming another US puppet regime. I'll let you draw your own conclusions.

But this is not all. Italy was

planning on dumping it's toxic waste's there.

"Afrika," writes Silvia Federici, a professor at Hofstra University and editor of the Committee for Academic Freedom in Afrika's newsletter, "is being turned into the chemical/nuclear dust bin of the world, the region where expired pharmaceutical products, toxic wastes, and materials banned in other countries, from medicines to pesticides, are dumped."

The list of true US objectives go on:

1) Establish and strengthen military bases.

2) Guard the oil shipping lanes.

3) Deepen the proletarianization of the African working class in order to generate cheap, dependable labor.

4) Roll back the resistance to this proletarianization by Eritrea and the growing liberation movement in Northern Somalia.

5) Extraction of precious natural resources.

Henry Kissinger described the situation most accurately, "To give food aid to a country just because they are starving is a pretty weak reason."

I am here because I see terrorism being committed continually by the US government. I come to share information with who ever wants it, information that the US media will not share with you. I feel it is our human duty to act against injustice perpetrated against our brothers and sisters. We must unite and organize to form mass resistance to the most powerful terrorist organization in the world - the United States government. Getting together like we have today is one of the first steps, but it must grow from here.

Somalia US out of

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ALL People Self Determination For

PIG TALK

The following are selected radio transmissions between police cars and dispatchers in L.A. They were recorded by the Christopher Commission from the LAPD's Mobile Digital Terminal communications system between November 1, 1989 and March 4, 1991. If this doesn't convince you that cops aren't your friends, nothing will.

"I'm off this Friday. Let's do lunch. Do you still have that KKK meeting?"

"A day without violence is like a day without sunshine."

"Sounds like monkey-spanking time." (In reference to treatment of a black "suspect")

"I left a 14 year old girl I met yesterday handcuffed to my chinning bar wearing nothing but salad oil. I'd like to check on her."

"This hole is picking up. I almost got me a mexican but he dropped the damn gun too quick. Lots of witnesses."

"God, I wanna kill something so bad."

"They had another shooting here. I love it when good things happen. It clears the air and gives me more space to breathe when one more asshole dies."

"After i beat him, what do I book him for?"

"Did you arrest the 85 year old lady or just beat her up? We slapped her around a little bit. She's getting medical treatment now."

"Mexican means a wetback with no papers and likes to give bullshit to the police, and doesn't speak no English, until he pulls his ID out of his ass, then and only then does he become a Hispanic with papers."

"A full moon and a full gun makes for a night of fun. Everyone you kill in the line of duty becomes a slave in the afterlife...Then you must have a lot of slaves."

"My shooting policy is based on nationality and looks."

"My last load went to a family of illegal aliens living in the brush along the freeway pass."

"I saw a lot of white hoods in the watch commanders office. I know, all sizes. They said it was for trick or treat, but i don't think so. I think you're right."

"I thought the woman was going to cry so I hit her with my baton."

"Oh no... We get to thump the janitors again. Should be interesting. We got such good news coverage last time." (In reference to the brutal beating of the Justice for Janitors civil disobedience strike in Century City, when police permanently disabled several protesters and caused a pregnant woman to lose her baby.)

"You won't believe this. That female called again, said suspect returned... I'll check it out then I'm going to stick my baton in her."

THE ATF

Here's some info on the ATF (ya know, the folk who bungled their raid on the Koresh pad) from The American Spectator, it seems our nemesis has some problems with the cops also.

"Once an agency has such components as ECTs (Entry Control Teams) and sniper teams, it will look for opportunities to use them, whether needed or not, to justify the budget increases these teams require," said a former senior ATF official who wishes to remain anonymous because he is frequently involved with litigation against the ATF.

"Bureaucratic regulators have no ability to exercise any control over even routine tactical operations. Given the choice of a peaceable interview and kicking in a door for pure entertainment, ATF special agents instinctively reach for the battering ram. This is a situation inviting trouble, and troubles began to appear." A few examples:

*June 1971; plainclothes ATF agents in ski masks burst into the home of Ken Ballen, an air force vet and newspaper pressman living in a high crime area in Silver Spring, Maryland. Ballen, unaware of what was happening, grabbed an antique pistol to defend himself. He was shot in the head and paralyzed. Nothing illegal was found and ATF refused to pay damages.

*June 1978; Hundreds of lawful gun owners and dealers at a gun show in San Jose were detained for two hours by twenty ATF agents, who photographed them and forced them to sign a warning.

*February 1982; A Senate subcommittee published a report documenting ATF abuses, citing the agency the agency for violating federal law against "secret lawmaking" by repeatedly not publishing new regulatory interpretations in the federal register. "ATF's claims, both of focus upon gun-using criminals and of recent reforms, are empty words," the report said.

*April 1991; The home of Del Knudson was raided by a 23 man team outside Colville, Washington. His wife was held in a room while her frantic 6 year old daughter cried for her mother in another room. Their one year old daughter was left in a bath tub. An elderly neighbor who offered to watch the children was handcuffed. Some misidentified gun parts were confiscated-all legal. No charges were filed.

*December 1991; Agents raided John Lawmaster's home in Tulsa, with two crews in tow. Agents knocked down the front and back doors, broke furniture, pulled down ceiling, dumped out drawers and closets, broke into locked filing cabinets and left guns and ammo strewn about the unsecured house. Nothing illegal was found. ATF refused to pay damages.

